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STROUD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1925.

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STROUD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area was 37,223 acres, and the population was 28,560 at the last census.

Taking the whole area the persons per acre are 1.3, and there are many acres with no population. The population lives in valleys, chiefly on hillsides, or on hill-tops. The climate is a moist one on the whole, which accounts for the chief industry, cloth weaving.

The average rainfall is about 30 inches, but varies markedly in different areas.

The occupation of the inhabitants are variable, there being 914 workers on the land, 1,078 cloth or clothes makers, 551 metal workers, 406 gardeners, and 1,043 domestic servants.

Much of the work is carried on in humid weaving sheds and in dusty factories, which possibly accounts for the prevalence of Tuberculosis. The rateable value was £12,397, and a penny rate produced £457.

A considerable amount of Poor Law relief is being paid out owing to trade depression and unemployment. For the year ending March 31st, 1926, the amount of outdoor relief paid was £5,540 in the whole Union.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES.

There were 393 births of residents in the area, but the total births for the area when corrected were 403. Of these 209 were males and 194 females.

There were 14 illegitimate births, giving a low percentage of 2.8.

The birth rate was 14.2, compared with 14.0 for last year, and a five years'

average of 16.1 per 1,000 per annum.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.3. The birth rate has decreased gradually since 1880, when it was 29 per 1,000.

There is little doubt but that the modern birth rate causes a much more comfortable life to those that are born, and more especially to the working class mothers, whose life was often one long pregnancy.

Birth restriction has been adopted for years by the better class people, and it is only at the present time that it is being practised by the industrial classes.

Housing shortage is another important economic factor in this matter.

There were 53 births in Chalford parish, 50 in Minchinhampton, 44 in Painswick, 43 in Bisley, 42 in Rodborough, and 29 in King's Stanley.

The quarterly births varied from 109 in the third to 82 in the fourth quarter.

Two illegitimate births occurred in Bisley, and 2 in Minchinhampton parish. These births are relatively more common in rural parts.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1876—80	29.9	18.0	136
1881—5	28.9	16.6	110
1886—90	27.8	15.8	103
1891—5	25.2	15.2	110
1896—1900	22.7	14.5	96
1901—5	20.2	13.0	80
1906—10	18.9	13.3	67
1911—15	17.0	13.8	71
1916—20	15.4	13.1	60
1921	17.4	11.3	70
1922	16.0	12.6	41
1923	15.2	11.1	36
1924	14.0	13.0	52
1925	14.2	12.3	52

DEATHS AND DEATH RATES.

The nett deaths registered were 350, of which 162 were males and 188 females.

In this number are included 66 residents who died outside the area, but 22 non-residents, who died within the area,



are excluded.

The annual death rate was 12.3 per 1,000 inhabitants, which compares favourably with 1924, when the rate was 13.0. The average for the last 5 years was rather lower than the present one, being 11.7 per 1,000.

The death rate has fallen fairly steadily since 1876-80 when it was 18.0 per 1,000.

The death rate in England and Wales was practically the same as the local one, being 12.2.

The deaths at age periods are very similar to those of 1924, there being however more deaths at ages 2—5 and less at ages 5—15 years.

This is explained by the fact that 7 deaths of children aged 2—5 years were caused by Diphtheria in 1925 and none in 1924.

In 1924 there were 3 deaths from Heart Disease, 22 from Tuberculosis at the 5—15 period, compared with 1 in 1925.

The deaths recorded include no less than 11 from Diphtheria, which was very fatal during the year, 16 from Influenza as to 30 in 1924, 18 from respiratory Tuberculosis compared with 30 in 1924, 49 from Cancer as to 46, 33 from respiratory diseases as to 28, 5 from Enteritis as to nil, 8 from Nephritis, 17 from violence, and 4 from suicide. The average number of deaths for last 5 years from Diphtheria was 1.6, from Tuberculosis of Lungs 24, from Cancer 42, and Pneumonia 8. The death rate from Diphtheria has been negligible for years and will probably become so again when the present epidemic conditions are over. The death rate from Tuberculosis, after rising during the war, is again descending steadily and the present rate is the lowest for 6 years at least.

During 5 years 55 cases of Pneumonia were notified and 39 deaths occurred, showing that most of the cases are not notified at all.

The female deaths exceeded the male deaths by 26, or about 15 per cent., but

the female population at the census was 15,657, compared with 13,025 males.

On this basis the male death rate was 12.4 and the female rate 12.0 per 1,000.

One death was certified as due to alcoholic poisoning, 24 from cerebral hæmorrhage, 48 to heart disease and 8 to nephritis.

Infantile Enteritis, which was at one time one of the most deadly diseases of children in large populous areas, caused 4 deaths of infants, which is decidedly above the average.

Accidents and diseases of pregnancy caused 2 deaths.

There were 4 uncertified deaths, all of adults.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants numbered 21, and of these 11 were males and 10 females.

The infant death rate was 52 for 1,000 live births, comparing with 56 in 1924 and an average of 48 for the 5 years. The rate in England and Wales was 75 per 1,000.

Three deaths were of illegitimate infants, and the legitimate infant death rate was 46, compared with an illegitimate death rate of no less than 214, or about 5 times as much.

The male death rate was 68, compared with 53 for female infants, which is a usual ratio.

Ten deaths occurred at ages under 1 week, and 16 under 1 month. One death was certified as due to Tonsillitis, although probably this was Diphtheria. Premature Birth only caused 3 deaths, compared with 9 in 1924. Three deaths were due to Marasmus, 2 to Enteritis, 4 to Convulsions (probably secondary to some other condition), 2 to Laryngitis, and 4 to Congenital defects.

The infant death rate has fallen steadily for the last 50 years in the district. For the 5 years (1876-80) the rate was 136, and for the next 3 five year periods it was about 110. Since the 1901-5 period it has never exceeded 80

per 1,000, and for the last 5 year period recorded it was only 60.

This is due to sanitary improvements and the spread of general education throughout the district, combined with the health visiting and welfare centres of the last decade. If every mother could be examined and treated during pregnancy the number of deaths from Premature Birth and Congenital weakness and defects would be reduced to a low limit.

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS.

There is the Standish House Sanatorium, the property of the County Council, where chiefly early cases of lung Tuberculosis are treated, together with certain late cases, and also about 70 children who are prone to this disease.

There is no maternity or children's hospital, but cases are taken into the Stroud General Hospital, and also into the hospitals of neighbouring towns.

The Joint Isolation Hospital is in the rural area, and has accommodation for 56 patients with infectious diseases. In addition there is an open air block for advanced Tuberculosis cases in which 12 female patients are treated, this being paid for by the County

There are 4 pavilions in addition to administrative and laundry blocks and six different diseases could be treated at the same time.

The Joint Smallpox Hospital is situated at Bisley in remote surroundings and will take 20 patients.

There is no provision for unmarried mothers and their children apart from the Poor Law Institution in the urban district.

There is a Red Cross motor ambulance for the neighbourhood, situated in Stroud, and a horse ambulance for infectious cases at the hospital.

There are Child Welfare Centres situated in Amberley, Brimscombe, Chalford, Minchinhampton, Bussage, Stonehouse and Painswick, in addition to one in Stroud and one in Nailsworth, which

receive children from the rural area. They are all managed by local committees who collect the expenses locally.

They are held in parish rooms and similar buildings and are doing excellent work in the education of the mothers on infant hygiene. The pity of it is that some of the poorer mothers, who need the advice most, will not attend these centres, and there is no law at present which makes it compulsory.

All the centres have issued splendid reports, showing as a rule increased attendances, and a good number of "talks" to the mothers on subjects connected with the health of the infant.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is carried on by the County officials every Tuesday afternoon at the Stroud General Hospital.

Most of the chronic cases in the area are here treated, in addition to a number of children with a predisposition to the disease.

The treatment centre for Venereal Disease is held 2 evenings a week at the Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Health officers of the Rural Council consist of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also in charge of the Isolation Hospital and assistant school medical officer, and three Sanitary Inspectors, all of whom have the certificate of the Sanitary Institute, and one of whom has the special meat certificate. The latter inspects all the meat in the area, and also the cowsheds and dairies.

NURSING.

There are district nurses in all the larger parishes who visit the sick, and give advice on minor matters connected with health. They also act as health visitors under the County Council and do infant visiting, Tuberculosis and school nursing work, in addition to attending most of the confinements in their villages.

There are no special nurses for dealing with home cases of Fever or Measles.

The Nursing Associations collect the cost of their nurses locally, and in addition receive payment from the County for the work done in the public health service.

There are not many private midwives now in the district, as the "Mrs. Gamp" person is gradually being eliminated.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Samples of water are sent to the County Analyst in Gloucester, but it was not found necessary to send any samples during the year.

LOCAL ACTS.

There are none in force in the district, but there are the usual byelaws, not all of which are up-to-date.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS AREA WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water by the Stroud Water Company, which obtains it from deep springs on the southern bank of the Frome, near Chalford.

It is a very good supply, and has recently been increased by a very large spring lower down the valley.

The water is very hard, but of great organic purity, as shown by a recent analysis, there being few microbes of any sort in the water when gathered. Twelve parishes receive the water, much of which is pumped to a height of 700 feet from where it gravitates.

The supply is not constant, which is always a danger, as there is a liability to pollution from leaky sewers when the mains are empty.

The water was softened before the war, which leads to considerable economy to the users in soap and boiling apparatus, as at present "furring" of kettles and boilers is frequent.

There is no public supply of water in the Bisley parish, and gaugings were taken for 12 months of the "seven wells" in that village, but the supply was found insufficient to work a ram in order to provide a general supply.

Eastcombe is dependent on surface wells in the gardens of the cottages, and would be very much benefitted by a public supply.

Chalford has main water in certain parts and spring water in others, some of which are not above suspicion.

The Slad water supply still works well.

Cranham and Sheepscombe are dependent on wells and springs, but a public supply could be arranged in the latter village, which is short at times.

The water supply at Painswick was apparently ample and free from any complaint of bad taste.

Whiteshill has several good springs, and part of it is now on in the Company's mains.

Miserden has a private supply, which is well maintained.

Most of the remote farms and cottages are dependent on either wells or springs.

There were 99 houses newly connected to the mains.

The streams of the area have much improved of recent years as the pollution from trade refuse has been much reduced, owing to depression in the cloth and other trades.

Once a week the stream below Nailsworth is blood red owing to dye water from above.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET SUPPLY.

In 7 of the larger parishes there is a sewerage system, complete with sewage treatment works, whilst in the rest there is no main drainage.

In the last 5 years the Amberley sewer and an extension along the Stroud Road at Stonehouse have been laid.

In a number of detached houses either cesspools or small tanks are in use.

Where there is a sewer most of the houses are connected and water closets have been erected.

In the other parts the closets are as a rule privies with ashpits attached, and these are emptied at fairly long intervals on to the garden by the occupier.

There are also a fair number of so-called dry closets, and these have to be emptied at more frequent intervals. Fortunately most of these houses are in rural condition and have gardens.

There were 22 new house drains laid down, and during the previous 5 years there was an annual average of 20.

Refuse removal is carried out weekly in the populous areas, and a new dump has been provided in France Lynch, which, if not elegant, is useful. Comparatively few sanitary ash bins have been procured, old boxes and tins without covers being the general rule. These are thus open to flies and the ravages of dogs, who specially like to rake out their contents.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

There were 15 complaints of nuisance received, and 168 nuisances were reported to the Council, in 12 of which swine were the offenders. Of these 166 were abated, all except 5 being done by moral suasion, 5 statutory notices being served. No legal proceedings were taken.

There were 299 houses disinfected.

Disinfection after infectious diseases is of very doubtful value, but even the most up-to-date householder still demands it. Disinfection is by means of formalin spray and fumigation.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints were received of nuisance from black smoke, emitted from factory chimneys, and no observations were found necessary.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY REGULATIONS.

There is one offensive trade in the district, a gut scraper's establishment at Dudbridge. This is carried on satisfactorily, but is in a rather congested area, and the owners are looking out for another site.

The canal boat traffic decreases each year, but 11 boats were inspected, 22 inspections being made. These were found in good condition, there being no breaches of the regulations.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings under supervision.

No underground sleeping rooms are known of, but many houses are built into the hillside.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There were 88 visits of inspection made to the above, including 40 to factories, 36 to workshops and 12 to workplaces. Several defects were found and written notices sent to the responsible parties. The defects consisted of want of cleanliness in 3 cases, poor ventilation in 1, and 4 other minor ones. All were remedied.

There are 83 workshops on the register. No lists of outworkers were received.

SCHOOLS.

Disease.	No.
Whooping Cough	66
Measles	54
Chicken Pox	70
Mumps	304
Ringworm	28
Other Contagious Skin Diseases ...	29

The hygienic condition of the schools is good, and many improvements have been made by the County in those not up to the standard. Many of them are old buildings and naturally do not come up to modern standards in regard to lighting and ventilation.

Most of the schools have water laid on and water carriage, and in those removed from a sewer there are pail closets.

Mumps, a comparatively harmless but very infectious complaint, was prevalent and 304 cases were reported from the schools. During the previous 5 years the average number of cases reported was 63. Not much is done to check this disease, but the memorandum of exclusion is strictly followed out.

Measles was not present to any extent, having been epidemic in 1924, but 54 cases were known. The last 5 years' average was 148.

There were 66 cases of Whooping Cough, and an average of 113 during preceding 5 years.

Chicken Pox was not epidemic, but 70 cases were known of, this being the average for 5 years also.

There were 28 cases of Ringworm and 29 of other skin conditions. Scabies has now become rather rare

Leaflets of precautions were issued to the scholars of affected schools in outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough, but owing to the new regulations very little school closure was indulged in as it can only be done "on medical grounds." Personally in my experience school closure is often very useful in checking epidemics, especially in Infant Schools.

HOUSING.

	Inspections.	Written Notices
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	40	3
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	36	4
Workplaces (other than Out-Workers premises ...	12	4
Total ...	88	11

DEFECTS.

Want of Cleanliness	3	3
Want of Ventilation	1	1
Other Nuisances	4	4
Sanitary Accommodation, insufficient, unsuitable, or defective	0	0
Breach of Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses.	0	0
	8	8

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakers	22
Bootmakers	6
Builders, Carpenters, Joiners	17
Blacksmiths	8
Coach Builders and Wheelwrights ...	1
Cycle and Motor Repairing Shops ...	8
Dress and Millinery Workshops ...	8

Organ Builders	...	...	...	5
Plumbers and Painters	...	...	...	3
Saddlers	...	...	...	5
Others	...	...	...	0

—

Total number of Workshops
on Register 83

No Lists of Outworkers received.

HOUSE AND TOWN PLANNING.

Number of New Houses erected during
year:—

(a) Total	...	...	...	53
(b) Subsidy Houses	...	...	...	34

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

..—Inspection.

- (1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 289
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 259
- (3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 9
- (4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 14

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notice:—

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	8
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28
of the Housing, Town Planning,
&c., Act. 1919.

- | | | |
|--|--------|----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs | ... | 10 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | | |
| (a) by owners | ... .. | 6 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... .. | 0 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... .. | 0 |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- | | | |
|--|--------|----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 14 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied | ... | 14 |
| (a) by owners | ... .. | 14 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | ... .. | 0 |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning Acts, 1909

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1.—Number of Representations made as to Closing Orders | 2 |
| Number of Closing Orders made | 1 |
| Number of Closing Orders determined | 1 |

At the census there was an average of 1.30 rooms per person in the whole district, and in the parishes this varied from 1.12 in Randwick and 1.14 in Miserden to 1.45 in Painswick and 1.88 in Pitchcombe.

There are 7,305 private families and these lived in 7,243 houses, so that in 48 houses at that time there were 2 families per house. It does not follow however that these families were overcrowded as the houses in many cases may have been too large for the owners and so were sub-

divided. At that time houses were very scarce and it is probable that "the 2 families a house" arrangement was largely due to house shortage. In the district many of the houses are small, and at the census there were 1,713 houses with 1—3 rooms, in addition to 3,469 houses with 4—5 rooms, and 1,571 with 6—8 rooms.

In the first class of house there were 3 houses with 2 families, in the second there were 12, whilst in the third group there were 26. In the fourth class there were 2 houses with 3 families in them, and in the fifth class (9 rooms or more) there were three houses.

Large families in small houses naturally lead to overcrowding, and this becomes more troublesome as the families grow up. From 1907 to 1914 there was an average of 36 houses per year erected, whilst during the war, 1914-18, the average was only 3.75 houses per annum. The yearly average for the years, 1907-18 was 33.

During the years, 1919-25, there were erected 283 houses, including 109 subsidy houses, and giving an average of 40 per year. In addition there were erected by the Council under the 1920 scheme 92 houses, and under the 1924 scheme 36 houses. This is equal to an average of about 36 during the years from 1907 to 1925, which is equal to the pre-war average.

The Council have built houses in three parishes, and are arranging for others to be erected in two other parishes. As far as can be seen at present private enterprise will continue the provision of future houses in the area.

There were few cases of overcrowding discovered by the inspectors during the year, which was to be expected as in the census there were 1.30 rooms per person in the area.

Many of the houses are old, and the sanitary defects found are direct results of senile decay and not due to ill usage by the tenants, nor specially by neglect of the owner. Many of the houses have no

back doors or windows owing to being built into the bank, which naturally interferes with ventilation.

It has been difficult in the case of insanitary houses to get the owner to repair them in certain cases, and this is usually due to want of money as repairs are very costly in these times.

No arrangements were made in regard to securing improved management of property by owners, and there is no special method of dealing with back to back property.

No unhealthy areas were reported on as the houses are as a rule not congested. No action has been taken in instructing tenants as to dealing with refuse except by word of mouth by the inspectors.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

During 1925 there were erected 53 houses, and of these 26 were two storey, 22 were bungalows, and 5 were wooden bungalows.

Thirty-four buildings were built with subsidy and 19 without.

The wooden houses were mostly built at Cranham, where a number of week-end bungalows have been erected, some of which are occupied continuously. Although these temporary buildings are not ornamental for long, they are very useful and health giving to the occupiers, who spend most of their time in stuffy towns.

There were 289 inspections carried out under the Housing Acts, and of these 259 were recorded in the official registers. Of these houses 9 were considered unfit for human occupation, and 14 were in certain respects not reasonably fit. Eight houses were rendered fit for habitation on informal notices by the owners.

Under the Housing Acts 10 notices were served and 6 houses made habitable.

Fourteen notices were served under the Public Health Acts, and all of these were attended to by the owners.

Two representations as to closing orders were made, and one closing order; one being determined as the house was put

right. Owing to the difficulty in getting rid of the tenants the houses at Ochre Hill, Randwick, were not closed during the year, there being nowhere for the tenants to go.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

There has not been much alteration in the conditions of milk supply, although the recent campaign in the County is bound to bear fruit to some extent. The distributing of warm milk from dirty cows is still in our midst, but probably to a less extent.

Early in the year the Council appointed a whole time inspector of meat and foods, his duties being in addition to inspect the cowsheds and dairies. During the 8 months he inspected 172 cowsheds and dairies and served 61 notices in regard to nuisances, 40 of these being remedied. He found many of the sheds and cows in a dirty state and the drainage of the sheds very undesirable. There is no graded milk in the area.

The inspection of cattle for Tuberculosis and the sampling of milk are in the hands of the County.

No bacterial examination of milk was made during the year.

Under the "Meat" regulations regular inspection of all animals killed for food in the district was begun in May and carried out all the year. Most of the butchers kill at regular times, but when the time is varied a card is sent to the inspector.

There were inspected 11,420 animals, and of these 154 were bullocks, 392 heifers, 103 cows, 1,537 sheep and 9,234 pigs. Of these 41 were condemned as unfit for human food, consisting of 23 pigs, 9 sheep, 7 cows and 2 heifers.

The total meat destroyed, including organs, was 12,133 lbs., and the cost of destroying nearly £15, most of this being burnt at the Urban destructor.

The two chief diseases found were Tuberculosis, either local or generalised,

and liver fluke. Tuberculosis was present in 30 per cent. of the cows slaughtered, whilst only .5 per cent. of the pigs were infected. The small proportion of pigs affected is remarkable and shows that the modern principle of open air life has improved their health very greatly.

Liver fluke attacks all the food animals except pigs, and the incidence varied from 7 per cent. in sheep to 48 in cows.

The inspector made 1,393 visits in all, including 698 to slaughterhouses, 2,523 to food shops. He found the condition of the slaughterhouses much below the standard laid down in model byelaws, but hopes that they may become better in time. The Ebley abbatoir is of course the one exception, it being a model place.

The model byelaws of slaughterhouses were adopted by the Council, including the humane method of slaughter, except in the case of pigs, which was considered impracticable. All the same this is enforced in the Urban district.

Most of the pigs are killed at the Ebley bacon works, and the work there is done with a minimum of pain as they are killed so rapidly. In one test there were 60 pigs killed in 37 minutes.

Alterations have been made in most of the food shops as required by the regulations.

There are 36 bakehouses on the register and these have been inspected twice a year each. No special fault is to be found with the way that they are conducted as a rule, but in a small bakery in Stonehouse there is no storage for the bread and cakes when baked.

No cases of food poisoning were known about.

The Food and Drugs Act is administered by the County Police, and a number of milk and butter samples were taken by them.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever, which had been epidemic for 15 months, continued prevalent during

the year and 251 cases were notified, and probably many more were never discovered at all owing to the failure of the parents to recognise the disease.

One case occurred at ages under a year, 33 at 1—5, 195 at 5—15 years, and 22 adults were attacked. The disease was most prevalent in Rodborough, especially in Kingscourt and Butterrow, opposite ends of this parish. There were 60 cases reported in all, and there were 37 in Whiteshill, 36 in Chalford, 30 in Bisley (chiefly Eastcombe), 28 in Cainscross, and 22 in King's Stanley (Selsley end). There were 2 cases in 19 families, 3 cases in 10, and 4 and 5 in 1 family each. Of the cases notified 155, or 62 per cent., were treated at Cashes Green. In the early part of the year the hospital was very crowded and a number of cases had to be treated at home even with poor isolation.

Four Scarlet Fever cases from hospital infected other members of the family on discharge, which is a very small percentage.

There were also one or two home treated cases who were infectious after isolation.

There was only one death in a home treated case, which was possibly due to complicatory Diphtheria. The small death rate shows how mild the disease was, but it was very infectious and the infection very persistent. The disease stayed a long time in certain areas, for example Whiteshill, where cases have occurred for nearly two years.

The area has been fairly clear of Fever since 1915, and the average for the last 5 years was only 41, and this included a partly epidemic year in 1924. It is not to be wondered at that a school population not protected by previous attacks, should be very prone to this disease.

Most of the cases were from private homes, but a certain number came from the Gyde Orphanage, Ebley Home, and the General Hospital. At the Ebley Home one case was missed and not found until it had reached the peeling stage. This case apparently infected others, both at the Home and at school.

Diphtheria, which is usually associated with Fever, was prevalent and 79 cases were reported, 12 being below school age, 20 at school age, and no less than 27 were adults. There were 21 cases in Rodborough parish, including a few at Butterrow, and a number at Kingscourt. In Cainscross parish there were 13, the same number in Whiteshill, and 11 in Selsley area. Several cases occurred among young women in a clothing factory, and in a piano factory there were 8 men attacked.

Several cases occurred in a home at Painswick.

Practically all the patients were removed to hospital, but in many cases not until the illness had been present for 3 or 4 days, which in severe cases makes successful treatment difficult or impossible. Many of the patients were very young and therefore not at all resistant to this deadly disease.

There were in all 11 deaths, giving a high death rate of 14 per cent., compared with an averages of 7.2 per cent. for the previous 5 years, there having been 8 deaths only and 91 cases. The average death rate for this 5 year period was 11.4, an average rate.

A fair proportion of the Fever patients admitted to hospital harboured the Diphtheria germ in their throats, and in this way no less than 6 Fever patients discharged from Hospital infected members of their families with Diphtheria. This notwithstanding that all Fever patients were "swabbed" on admission before getting up and on discharge.

Diligent search was made for "carriers" in the district, and the whole of the Whiteshill Girls, Eastcombe, and the infant departments at Rodborough and Ebley were swabbed (throat and noses) in a search for same. Only one or two were found altogether, and these were kept from school until free.

In 9 families there were 2 cases each, in one there was 3, in one 5, and in another 6 cases.

Only 8 cases of Pneumonia, 5 children and 2 adults, were notified, six of these being from 2 parishes.

Five cases of Erysipelas, 4 being adults, were reported, one case each in five parishes.

A girl from Rodborough parish was reported from the General Hospital with Encephalitis Lethargica, the case proving fatal.

No case of Smallpox has been notified since 1923, when a small outbreak occurred.

During 1925 out of 568 births only 39 vaccinations were performed in the Stroud Union, or barely 7 per cent. Thus vaccination is practically not carried out at all in the Union.

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified in a boy at Rodborough. This case made a good recovery with no eye injury.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			New Cas ^e s.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	1	4	...	1	...	2	...	...
20	...	...	5	2	1	...	...	2	1	...
25	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1
35	...	...	3	3	...	...	5	2	1	...
45	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	1
55	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	12	12	3	4	10	8	2	3

There were 24 cases of respiratory Tuberculosis notified, 12 of each sex, and 7 cases of the disease in other parts, including 2 males and 3 females.

The deaths from respiratory Tuberculosis were 18, and from other forms 5.

Cases of lung disease were notified in all the larger parishes with the exception of King's Stanley and Randwick.

Five cases occurred in Rodborough, 3 in Painswick, and 2 each in six other parishes. Of the total 15 were isolated either at Standish House, or in other institutions.

Of the other forms of Tuberculosis there were 3 cases in Painswick parish.

Of the respiratory cases 9 worked in mills, 6 in indoor occupations, 2 were painters, and 2 brass workers.

One or two cases were certified without notification. The medical man was written to on the matter, and it was explained that the notification had been forgotten.

No action has been taken up to date under the Public Health Regulations, 1925.

All cases are visited and full details entered on cards of the state of the household and general hygiene of the patient.

The Tuberculosis scheme is worked by the County Council, as is also the scheme for treatment of Venereal Disease.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria and Croup	Enteric Fever	Tubercu- losis	Others
Admissions	222	120	0	23	0
Discharges	225	103	0	11	0
Deaths	0	12	0	9	0
Remaining in } Hospital Dec. } 31st, 1925	19	5	0	10	0
Rural District } cases admitted }	155	79	4	0	0

Some of these were croupous cases and had to have a tracheotomy done, and the

During the year there were admitted 365 patients, including 222 cases of Scarlet Fever, 120 of Diphtheria, and 23 of Tuberculosis.

There remained in hospital at the end of the year 19 cases of Scarlet Fever, 5 of Diphtheria, and 10 Tuberculosis.

There were 21 deaths, 12 from Diphtheria and 9 from Tuberculosis.

Of the Diphtheria deaths 5 were only in hospital one day, and two were admitted 2 hours and 1 hour before death. others had been ill for 3 or 4 days and were beyond treatment.

One or two were in hospital for some weeks and one Fever patient died from Diphtheria caught in hospital.

There was a good deal of cross infection and a number of Fever patients were carrying Diphtheria germs on admission. These cases were isolated in a separate ward until two consecutive clear swabs were taken from nose and throat.

The average time in hospital of Fever patients was 44 days, and of Diphtheria patients one month.

All the fatal cases of Tuberculosis were from outside the Stroud areas, with one exception, a rural case.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and 5 previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated at Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate	of Non- Residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Num- ber.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1920	29,229	542	532	18.2	267	9.1	22	65	22	41	310	10.6
1921	28,560	492	499	17.4	278	9.7	20	65	35	70	323	11.3
1922	28,610	456	458	16.0	305	10.6	9	66	19	41	362	12.6
1923	28,530	415	435	15.2	261	9.1	4	60	16	36	317	11.1
1924	28,590	393	398	14.0	312	10.9	15	75	21	53	372	13.0
1925	28,310	393	403	14.2	306	10.8	22	66	21	52	350	12.3

Census 1921. Area of District in Acres, 37,223. Total Population at all Ages, 28,560.
Total Families or Separate Occupiers, (1921.) 7,305.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED										TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.															
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards																		
Epidemic Encephalitis	1			1				4	5																	1
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	79	12	40	18	6	3		2					1	5	1		21	11	1	1	13			1	13	79
Enteric Fever	8	2	1	1			2	3	3				1	12	1		60	22	1	4	28	2				155
Pneumonia	251	33	195	12	9	1		30	36		3	8	1	12	1				2							
Scarlet Fever	5	1			4	1			1		1	1							1					2		
Erysipelas	24		1	12	7	4		1	2		2	2	3	3	1		5		1		2	1			2	15
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	1	3	2		1				1							1								1	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1																									5
Ophthalmia Neonatorum																										
Totals	376	3	49	240	46	26	10	2	38	47	1	8	13	23	3		89	33	6	5	44	3	1	8	54	255

Stroud Joint Isolation Hospitals—Cainscross.—Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis.
Bisley—Smallpox. Total available beds—68. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated—6.
Sanatorium—Standish House (County Council.)

TABLE III. DEATHS.—Stroud Rural District Council.

Year ending December 31st, 1925.

Causes of Death,	All Ages	Under 1	1—2	2—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and upwards	Non-resid'nts
All causes. Uncertified...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough, Lethargica	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	...
Scarlet Fever	11	...	...	7	3	1	...	...	...	...
Arterio Sclerosis	16	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	13	...
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Influenza	48	...	...	...	1	1	1	14	31	...
Diabetes	18	...	...	...	...	4	9	4	1	...
Heart Disease	5	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	49	...	...	...	...	...	2	21	26	...
Erysipelas	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...
Cancer, malignant disease	10	2	1	1	...	1	...	2	3	...
Bronchitis	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	5	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	19	...
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	17	...	...	1	2	2	2	4	6	...
Suicides	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...
Other defined diseases	81	7	...	1	...	4	5	16	48	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown										
TOTALS	350	21	4	11	8	15	28	74	189	

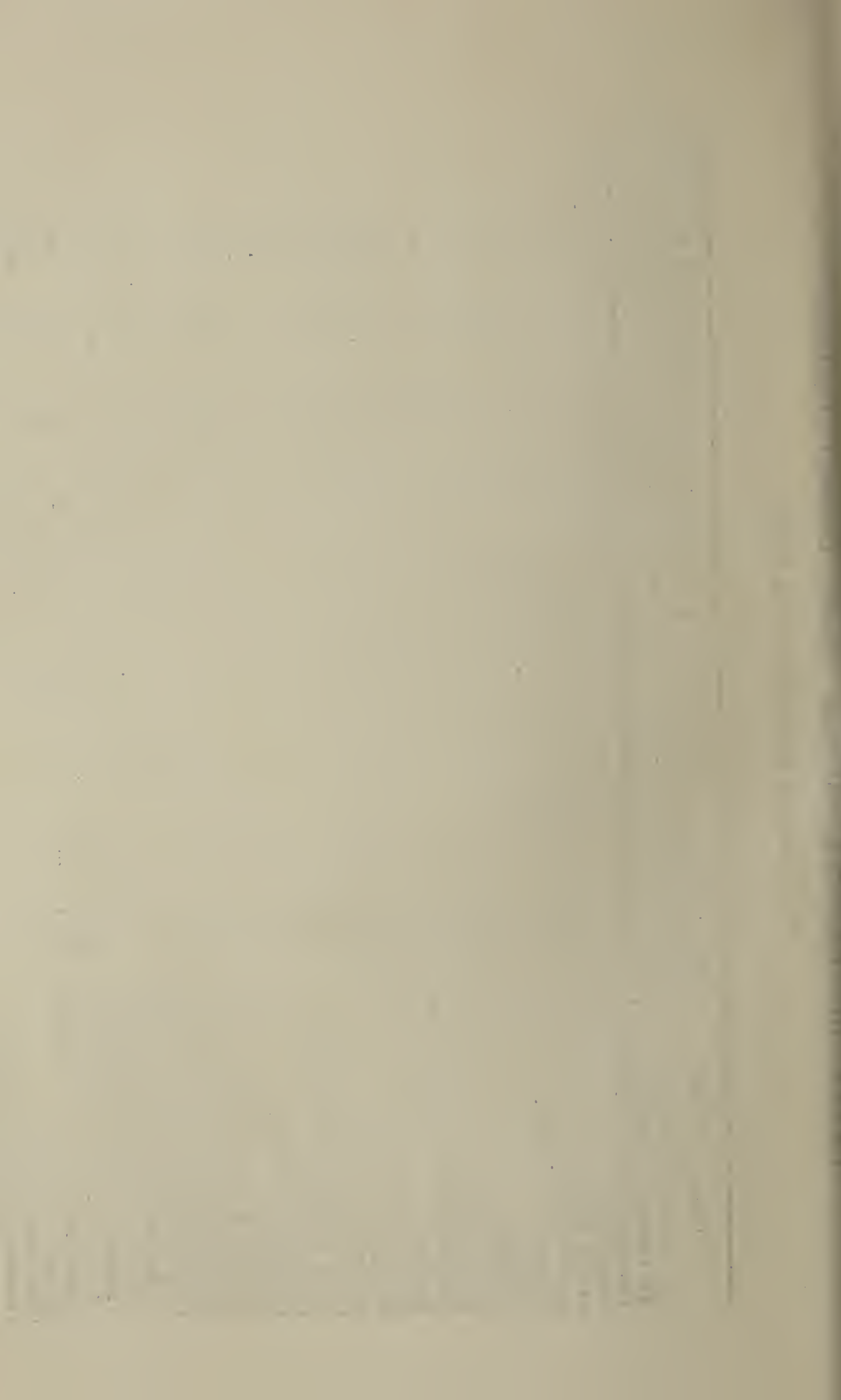


TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under one Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Year							Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under One year.
	ALL CAUSES.	Certified	...	Under 1 Week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.						
Tonsillitis	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1	1
Premature Birth	1	...	...	3
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	3
Enteritis	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	1	1	...	1	...	...	2
Convulsions	2	1	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	4
Laryngitis	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Congenital Defects	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
TOTAL	10	1	1	4	16	2	2	...	1	21

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 389; illegitimate, 14; total, 403.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 18; illegitimate infants 3-21

